has sought permission for cutting of 49 trees in Vasant Kunj and 57 trees in Sarita Vihar for construction of flats which has been granted to them by Forest Department of Government of NCT of Delhi under Delhi Preservation of Tree Act, 1994. In lieu of cutting of these trees, DDA has been asked to plant 1060 saplings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Environment clearance of Chheligada Irrigation Project

3168. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chheligada Irrigation Project in Gajapati district of Orissa is awaiting clearance from the Centre, for de-reservation of forest area;

(b) whether Government are aware that on completion of this multi-purpose project, it would provide drinking water and irrigation facilities to different districts of the State; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has already granted forestry clearance for diversion of 159.895 ha. of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of Chheligada Medium Irrigation Project in Gajapati district of Orissa on 17-10-2002.

Betterment of Matheran

3169. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "State scorns SC Order on Matheran", which appeared in 'The Indian Express', dated the 16th October, 2002; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the article, for the betterment of Matheran and its surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government had issued a draft notification *vide* S.O. 167(E) dated 6th February, 2002 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of declaring Matheran and surrounding areas as Eco-Sensitive Zone. A large number of objections and suggestions have been received from the public, Maharashtra State Government, peoples' representatives, NGOs and other stake holders in response to the draft notification. The notification is to be finalized keeping in view the objections and suggestions received on the draft notification.

Action plan for mountain development

3170. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level National Committee has been constituted to prepare an action plan for mountain development; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the Committee and by when it is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A National Committee for celebration of UN International Year of Mountains 2002 has been constituted. However, its Terms of Reference do not require preparation of an Action Plan for mountain development. Thus, question of submission of a report on this point does not arise.

Eviction from forest land

3171. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have been directed to summarily evict encroachments of forest land;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, the guidelines for determining encroachment, quantum of forest and under encroachment and evicted, during the last three years and the number of affected families, State-wise;